The Semaphore

A Publication of Telegraph Hill Dwellers

Secret History of a Rose Garden Statue, see p. 18

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TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER
SIX PRINCIPLES

By Paul Scott

It has come down to this. Six principles. That is what separates us from a decent project on our waterfront.

As many of you know, THD has been grappling with the Mills Corporation for almost a year over the future of Piers 27-31. We have been joined in that effort by Citizens to Save the Waterfront, a coalition of merchants, neighborhood and environmental groups. The major commercial real estate holders in the area—Ron Kaufman Companies and Blue Jean Equities West (the owners of Levi's Plaza) — have also been active. And most recently, the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods, whose membership includes over 30 different neighborhood organizations citywide, has also come on board.

The rallying point is a letter that sets forth six principles. In response to a request by the mayor's office, we developed these simple criteria that we believe any proposed development at Piers 27-31 should be required to satisfy in order to proceed. Though I understand it is not typical to include detailed policy arguments in the President's Corner, I am going to describe the principles here, simply because the outcome at Piers 27-31 may well be the single most significant event affecting our neighborhood in our lifetimes. With Mills running a citywide campaign to try and sell their project (including full-page newspaper advertisements and the like), broad understanding of the real issues is critical.

Here they are:

1. **At least 51 percent of the interior space in the project should be dedicated to active recreational uses.** Presently, less than 1/3 of the interior space in the project is proposed for recreation. (The fraction is less if parking space is included). The San Francisco Waterfront Plan called for a development "oriented around active recreational pursuits." The Port's Request for Proposals included the same requirement. When the Port awarded the exclusive right to negotiate to Mills, it did so on the specific condition that Mills "[s]ignificantly reduce the amount of office, retail, and eating and drinking space" and "expand the interior

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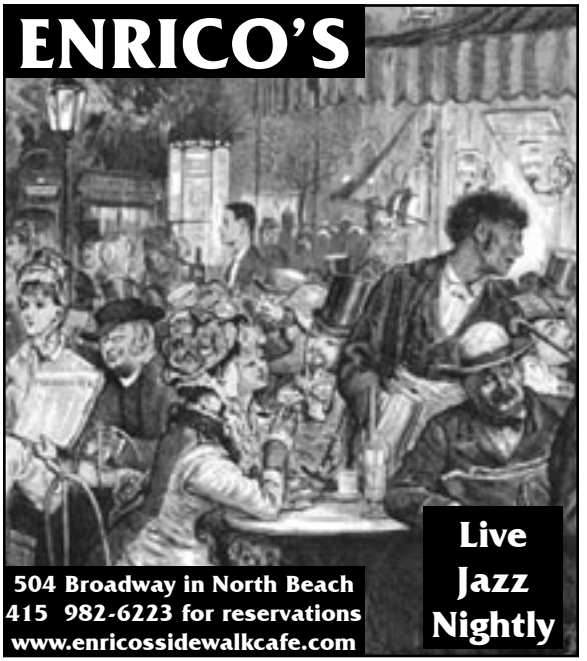

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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space devoted to Recreational Enterprises." The required reduction was to be significant enough to make the permitted uses "ancillary" to the recreational uses in the project. The only reasonable interpretation of this language is that at least a majority of the project's interior space should be dedicated to recreational uses. Mills' competitor proposed a project with over 90 percent of its interior space (excluding parking) dedicated to recreational uses. Mills should be required to provide at least 51 percent.

2. **Any project approved for Piers 27-31 should satisfy the standard parking, traffic and transit requirements that would be applied to any similar project proposed for the Northeast Waterfront.** This point would appear obvious but until recently the plans only included about 200 valet-style parking spaces for a project that would normally require well over 1,000 self-park spaces. Mills increased the proposed number of parking spaces recently to about 600 but that is still not enough, and no adequate answers have been provided regarding predictions by traffic experts of gridlock along the Embarcadero resulting from the increase in traffic that would result from the project.
3. **Public access to the site should be enhanced, particularly to the water basin.** As presently planned, visitors seeking to use the water basin between Piers 29 and 31 must walk through 25-foot wide, 180-foot long corridors lined with retail shops. Recreation users must walk over 400 feet from the YMCA to the water basin through such corridors. The Port Conditions required that the location of uses be "reorganized so that the entire open space network is activated." This has yet to be accomplished.
4. **Any plan approved at the site should not cause stacking or cueing of cars along the**

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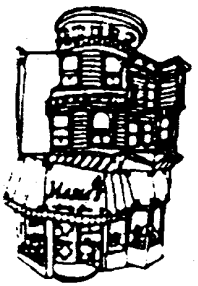

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER *cont'd fr. p. 5*

Embarcadero, nor should it inhibit pedestrians or other users of Herb Caen Way. The present plan proposed by Mills calls for curb cut-outs along the eastern side of the Embarcadero. These should not be permitted.

5. **The project should comply with the secretary of the Interior's standards for historic preservation.** Serious questions have been raised about whether Mills' plans for building renovations, new construction and site design are consistent with efforts at historic preservation on the waterfront. Compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's standards for historic preservation should thus be mandated.
6. **The proposed project should comply with the relevant provisions of the San Francisco Waterfront Plan, the Port's Amended Request for Proposals for Piers 27-31, and the 13 conditions articulated by the Port Commission on April 18, 2001 as prerequisites to Mills proceeding with development of Piers 27-31.** Nothing revolutionary here. A simple reminder that Mills should have to comply with the rules of the game, like everyone else. The history of this project just makes it necessary to state the obvious.

Tell a friend.

Movie Night-

When we put on our first Movie Night in Washington Square last year, we were modestly hopeful we wouldn't upset the neighbors, destroy the park or leave a mess behind. Starting a North Beach tradition was on the nether reaches of our ambitions. But after another big hit this past Memorial Day weekend, it now seems conceivable. About 1,300 people showed on May 29 to see "The Maltese Falcon," along with 10 previews of other films by Bay Area filmmakers. The response was universally positive. Apart from being a lot of fun, the event apparently did some good for our local talent: One of the filmmakers reported that his film was picked up by a scout for the Mt. Shasta Film Festival. We also raised enough money this year to cover our costs and contribute a few bucks to some nonprofit causes, including North Beach Citizens, St. Francis of Assisi, THD and the San Francisco Neighborhood Theater Foundation. So we have settled on the idea of doing two movie nights per year in Washington Square—one each, in the spring and fall—and we can now safely call it a tradition.

An evening with a film in the park is an idea that also seems to be catching on with other neighborhoods. Folks from Dolores Park, in collaboration with our partners at the San Francisco Neighborhood Theater Foundation, screened a film in May and will be showing another film in the fall. I've also heard of outdoor screenings taking place in the Mission and in Bernal Heights. And, of course, numerous outdoor movies will be shown again in Marin this year. If you want more information on outdoor screenings, go to www.filmnight.org for the details on many of these events, including our own screening of "Dark Passage" coming this September 18.

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Grant Avenue Revitalization Moves from Plans to Action

by Kathleen Dooley

Is it really possible to clean up Grant Avenue? Volunteers from Hands-On Bay Area, North Beach Citizens and St.Vincent de Paul seem to think so.

THD's Grant Avenue Revitalization Committee has organized a twice-a-month Saturday clean-up in association with of neighborhood and city groups such as these. We provide all cleaning implements from trash pickers (donated by THD) to brooms, gloves and dustpans.

We are operating on the principle that we can inspire the neighborhood and merchants to raise the general level of cleanliness by setting an example. Judging by the evidence so far, our hopes seem well grounded.

A number of merchants have taken note and are spending a little extra daily time cleaning litter in front of their businesses. We have also worked with North Beach Pizza, due to relocate across the street from its current location, to agree to keep the area of Grant and Union clean and litter-free.

And merchants and neighbors are contributing money. So far, we have raised $1,200. We are planning to purchase a number of trash-picker tools which will be available to merchants to help clean up their part of the street. If donations continue at this healthy rate, we will be able to pay for an intensive steam-cleaning of Grant Avenue.

We understand that trash needs someplace to go so we've successfully lobbied, with the help of THD member Merle Goldstone, for a return of city trash cans on Grant Avenue. We want to add more attractive trash cans to the area along with ashtrays near all restaurants, cafes and bars.

To do all this we need help. Consider sending a donation (earmarked Grant Avenue Revitalization) to THD, and check out the dates of our Saturday cleanups. They'll be posted in the window of our headquarters at the southeast corner of Grant and Union, a space generously donated by Dennis Lappos of North Beach Pizza. You'll find the cleanup is a lot of fun and you'll be rewarded by seeing the difference you've made. And, oh yes, refreshments will be served.

Contact us at info@columbinedesign with your ideas. We can make a difference.-

Public, THD Meeting on Coit Tower Traffic Jams

By Bill Seelinger

For too long, there have been persistent, very lengthy, and very slow-moving traffic jams below Coit Tower on weekends and holidays, a condition headlined in an article in the North Beach Beat in June of last year as "Coit Tower: The Car Ride from Hell." Frequently during these peak periods, queues of backed-up cars snake down the full length of Telegraph Hill Boulevard and curl around the Marconi memorial onto a bit of Lombard Street.

For many months now the THD Parking and Traffic Committee has been contemplating ways to get rid of these traffic jams. On May 13, the committee held a community meeting at the Tel Hi Center to receive public input on this problem.

Following an analysis of the facts gathered on the jams, the public was invited to comment. The public had plenty to say.

These jams — which last almost all day on weekends and holidays — involve backups of 25 to 50 cars, sometimes more, and represent delays for visitors of often more than 30 minutes to get to the top to the Coit Tower lot. Worse than the

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Chapin Coit—In Memorium

By Gerry Crowley

Sailing into San Francisco Bay on the USS Specter at the end of World War II, Chapin Coit gazed at the incredible beauty of our city, punctuated on the northeast by a majestic tower named for his aunt, Lillie Coit, who, before marrying well, had been a precocious, fire-chasing madcap who became the mascot of San Francisco's Knickerbocker Company. War-weary from the battles at Iwo Jima and Okinawa, the 29-year-old looked forward to returning to his home in the east but vowed to return one day to live in San Francisco.

Seventeen years later, in 1962, Chapin greeted his wife Barbara and four children at the door of 412 Green St. where, after accepting a job in San Francisco, he'd been living for four months before their arrival. It soon became clear that this studio apartment wasn't going to work for six people. The Coits found an affordable house in Marin but in 1966 purchased the San Francisco home near Lone Mountain which they would share until Chapin's death this past January 20.

When, in November 1996, the Pioneer Park Project was implemented by a committee of Telegraph Hill Dwellers to enhance and restore the park at Coit Tower, many of us became acquainted with Chapin as a project cheerleader and as the great-nephew of Lillie, who in 1929 left one third of her estate "to be expended in an appropriate manner for the purpose of adding to the beauty of the city which I have always loved." Appropriately, in 1933, Coit Tower was dedicated as a memorial to honor Lillie and the firemen of San Francisco.

During the six-year Pioneer Park Project, Chapin and Barbara kept in close contact with committee members, joined THD and attended many of our social functions where project updates were of special interest to them. Finally in September 2002, at the rededication ceremony of Pioneer Park, Chapin took his rightful place as the Coit family representative. The Semaphore's coverage of the event featured a picture of Chapin with other dignitaries, including then-Mayor Willie Brown.

At a memorial service and joyous celebration at the Coit home following his death, those present recounted Chapin's 87 years, a life rich with friendship and good works, including the donation of 15 gallons of blood.

Known to enjoy some of San Francisco's best known watering holes, Chapin and Barbara frequented the Washington Square Bar and Grill where Chapin had lunch last fall with *San Francisco Examiner* columnist Bruce Bellingham. "I never get tired of looking at the tower up there on Telegraph Hill," he said.

Coit Traffic Jams *cont'd. fr. p.9*

delay is that many visitors who start unwittingly up the hill, thinking they are about to enjoy Coit Tower, get frustrated and make the hazardous car turnaround in the middle of Telegraph Hill Boulevard without visiting the tower. On one of these occasions, the committee found that 82 percent of the cars that started up the hill turned around and left without making it to the top.

In addition to upset tourists and hazardous turnarounds, this problem has other negative effects: Resident access to the hill is seriously impeded, air pollution is unrelenting for many hours at a stretch and the 39-Coit bus can't run on schedule, meaning this valuable transportation resource is significantly underutilized.

The committee's objective is to replace cars as the primary vehicular means of access to the Coit Tower at peak periods. To do it would require transforming the 39-Coit into a highly patronized tourist-attraction asset for San Francisco, a la the historic streetcars.

Previous approaches have been considered to solve this problem. These include eliminating A-sticker parking, adding parking meters, the use of the downhill lane on Telegraph Hill Boulevard for the 39-Coit traveling uphill, resident-only parking at Coit Tower and warning signs on Lombard of a long queue ahead.

The committee's current thinking is that solving the problem is simply incompatible with allowing parking at the Coit Tower during peak periods. During these periods, cars arrive to start up the hill at the rate of two to four per minute but depart the lot at the top at about one per minute. Even at the lower rate of two arrivals per minute, if all cars waited it out to the top, the queue would reach 60 vehicles in one hour and 180 in three hours.

The committee stated that it is guided by the need to balance the interests of nearby residents, who park at Coit Tower, with the interests of visitors and the need to solve the traffic-backup problems.

The committee proposed to implement a trial of no parking at Coit Tower at selected times during weekends and holidays, generally late morning to late afternoon/early evening. There would be a temporary vehicle turnaround in the lot south of the Columbus statue, which would provide for drop-offs and pickups by taxis, limos and private cars, but no vehicles would be allowed to park or stop and wait for passengers. The 39-Coit would turn around south of the statue and make use of its present stop. The area north of the statue would become a piazza, with a festive atmosphere of tables, chairs, umbrellas, food and drink. Muni would be asked to execute a minor trial reroute of the 39-Coit to intersect with two F-line stops at Fisherman's Wharf. This would be done to encourage maximum ridership to the tower. There would be extensive publicity and signage to inform the public that they can ride unimpeded to the tower during these times.

The trial hopes to demonstrate that the queue can be eliminated; that a better and safer environment at the tower can be created. Non-park-

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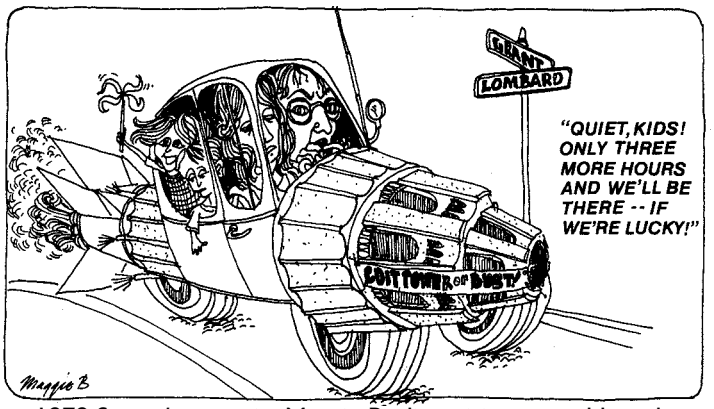

In a 1978 *Semaphore*, artist Maggie Baylis satirizes a problem that hasn't gone away.

New Board Members Have Plans For THD

by Bob McMillan
This is the second in a series profiling THD's new board members.

Gregory F. Chiampou

A 10-year resident of the Filbert Steps, Greg recently signed on as the THD's new treasurer, replacing Maya Armor, who had served for several years.

Soon after moving to the hill, in 1995 Greg got his first exposure to THD during the Pioneer Park restoration project. "My neighbors were very involved in Pioneer Park," he says. "I thought it was well handled in terms of how THD was able to reach out for neighborhood participation."

Greg is an advocate for this tradition of community outreach and neighborhood preservation, but as the board member following the organization's finances, he says he is sometimes also the voice of restraint. "There are so many great ideas and ways to do things, my job is to be the financial nag."

More recently, Greg used his experience as a financial advisor to help Maya find a chartered professional accountant to do an independent audit of THD's finances. The audit, which is being done right now, pro bono, by CPA Jeff Dorsey, will be the first audit in anyone's memory, Greg says. "We're not required to do this kind of audit, but it's a prudent thing to do," he says. "It makes sure we're presenting our financials accurately and we're getting ideas on best practices."

Greg's favorite thing about living on the Hill? "I arrived back in town the other day from a business trip at 5 a.m., and I smelled brewing coffee and fresh bread baking as I approached Washington Square Park. North Beach can welcome anyone at any time."

Patsy Chan

An administrative support consultant, realtor and notary public, Patsy was born in Chinatown and grew up in North Beach. She and her partner, Howard Ashlock, have been involved in different activities around the neighborhood, and Patsy is an active member of the Chinatown Community Development Center.

What would she like to see THD accomplish over the next year? "Quite simply to continue the work it does around the waterfront issue, and to be more connected to what our neighbors are doing and keep on top of the struggles that make this neighborhood so unique. Issues like housing, or the lack of it."

Patsy has lived at Greenwich and Grant for 29 years.

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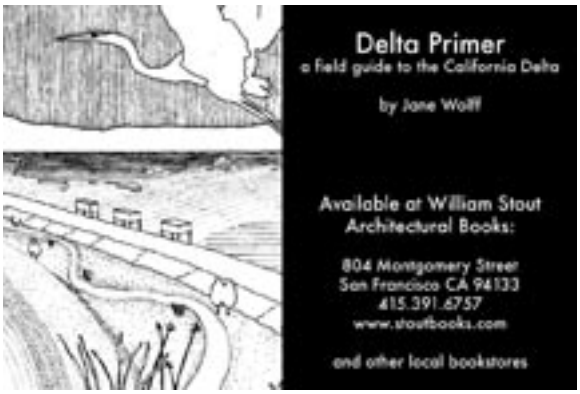

Dwelling on the Hill, 1964-1984

by Art Peterson

This second installment in THD's history, drawn from reporting and editorials in The Semaphore, provides an anecdotal account of the organization's 10th to 30th year.

Those Telegraph Hill Dwellers—circa 1970—who could recall a bit of what they had learned in 9th grade Greek mythology were best able to describe what was going on: Like Hercules, the Hill Dwellers just kept whacking away at the hydra heads of freeways, height-limit excesses and over development only to find new heads sprouting in their place.

Around 1965, one head appeared which the organization would need to thrash away at for the better part of a decade. San Francisco supervisors took a look at the "free land" of Washington Square and decided it would be the perfect location for a 535-car underground garage. The measure actually passed the Board of Supervisors in 1966, stymied only by the veto of Mayor John Shelley. But the issue just kept coming back, even as Hill Dwellers proposed alternatives. Why not, for instance, add stories on top of the police department garage on Vallejo Street? Even in 1975, the issue was far from dead.

The garage, however, never happened and in fact much of the THD's success during the years 1964-1984 can be evaluated on the basis of what didn't happen. Here is some of what the organization helped prevent:

—The International Market Center (1967), which the Semaphore called "a six-block, view-blocking crate around Telegraph Hill." Part of the plan was to replace the Filbert Steps with a public funicular.

—A 1967 plan for a 1,000-room hotel at the end of Piers 41 and 39, and another 450-room hotel over water on piles at pier 37.

—A US Steel Tower at Pier 35, covering 50 acres of water, rising to 550 feet — 80 feet higher than the bridge towers.

—Phase 3 of the Golden Gateway (1971), bounded by Broadway, the Embarcadero Freeway, Jackson and Front. The tops of these buildings would have been above the top of Telegraph Hill. The Hill Dwellers pointed out that the plans for this development had been produced in the early 1960s and that "since then San

continued on next page

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Dwelling '64-'84 *continued from page 13*

Francisco has changed its attitude about such massive high rise projects."

Still, these were the years when Mayor Joseph Alioto's acting Port director, Bernard Orsi, was chiding planners who were trying to work open-space concepts into commercial development: "A developer can't make money if half of a lot is a park and the rest can only be 40 feet high."

Stridency was the accepted rhetorical tone of the day, which may explain why THD President Curtis Baldwin editorialized THD's opposition to the Transamerica Building by writing "Transamerica will cast a morning shadow over the southern reaches of the hill. Sunny patios and decks will become potential mushroom beds."

Stung by the scope and speed of development, the editor of the *Semaphore* quoted as "rare wisdom" this item from L.M. Boyd's *San Francisco Chronicle* column: "On Raragongo in the Cook Islands, no building by law can be taller than a palm tree."

The THD Style

During these years, THD was pretty much a what-you–see-is- what-you-get organization. In 1968, THD President Gerald Cauthen put it down in a sentence: "THD possesses both a formidable array of talent and a singularly uniform approach to the problems engendered by the rush to dehumanize the American city."

This core belief led THD to take some lonely positions. For instance, in 1973 all of the supervisors running for reelection supported airport expansion and enlargement of the Sutter-Stockton Garage. THD opposed both.

But perhaps one reason folks have been willing to put up with THD's sometimes orneriness is that members do their homework. When, for instance, former THD President Morton Radar took on one of the freeway extension plans that was bouncing around during these years, he showed up at City Hall with plastic overlays with the freeway designated in red.

"We were graphically able to demonstrate its devastating effect," Radar said. That presentation was followed by a film conceived by Bob and Nancy Katz, documenting "the visual and audible effects of diesel trucks on the James Lick Freeway."

Another reason for THD's resilience has been the ability to propose alternatives to proposals it finds questionable. When one of the massive waterfront development plans was discarded, THD recognized that "piers 1, 1-1/2, 3 and 7 are ideal for a modular construction and remodeling, connecting buildings and 4,000 feet of landscaped walkways. Walls can be replaced with glass for multiple uses: a marine center, offices, shops, open-air cafes, exhibit space, a youth center, a senior citizens center."

Some of the alternatives were small and practical: To alleviate the parking situation on the Hill, THD arranged with Lee's Garage on Powell Street just

continued on next page

THD Presidents: 1964-1985

1964-66	Morton Rader,(Architect),
1966-68	George Raad, (Architect)
1968-70	Gerald Cauthen, (Government Employee)
1970-71	Curtis Baldwin, (Building Owner)
1972-73	I.D. Blume, (Restaurateur)
1973-75	John Holmes (Hotel Clerk)
1975-77	Robert Tibbits (Financial Advisor)
1977-79	Anne Halsted, (V.P. U.S. Leasing International.)
1979-80	David Dibble, (Lawyer), Veronica Von Blumthal (wife)
1980-82	Jim Augustino, (Commercial Realtor)
1982-83	Jerry Petruzzelli, (Attorney), Dorena Schramm (Wife)
1982-85	Jane Winslow, (Land Use Project Consultant, Teacher)

Dwelling '64-'84 *continued*

around the corner from the 39 bus stop to provide parking for Dwellers for $20 a month. Other suggestions were visionary: Why not, now that the U.S. Steel Project had been killed, consider an Embarcadero Gardens inspired by Copenhagen's Tivoli Gardens? Still others oozed common sense: Instead of increasing the six narrow lanes on Doyle Drive, the killer Golden Gate Bridge approach, to eight wide freeway lanes, why not just enforce the 25 mile speed limit?

These were, of course, the years of activism. So it was probably no surprise when a group of women from the neighborhood who went by names like Mrs. Michael Patterson and Mrs. Toby Bloxim occupied the 115-year-old Sea Wall Warehouse in a vain effort to stave off the bulldozers. And then, unfortunately, there was environmental activism turned nasty. In 1982, in one of the more bizarre events to take place on the Hill, an outspoken critic of the Levis Plaza Project—let us hope not a dues paying THD member—cut the support rope of a project employee working on the cliff above. Luckily, he cut the wrong rope and was charged only with attempted murder.

The fellow clearly lacked another quality that has been a characteristic of Hill Dweller style: patience. In 1965, former THD President Rod Freebairn-Smith suggested to city officials the idea of turning the slab of concrete at Vallejo and Montgomery into a garden. According to the Semaphore, the primary function of this strip was "a beer can role for stragglers from the Broadway Strip." Fourteen years later, in 1979, this no-man's land was transformed into the beautiful garden it remains today.

Other projects percolating during these years still await fruition. In 1975, when Vanessi's was still a going concern on the northeast corner of Broadway and Kearny (where the Saki Lab is today), plans had been developed for a tree-lined expanse up Kearny between Broadway and Vallejo. Nothing happened, but the idea has not gone away. Now, 30 years later, people are once again talking about making this steep hill into a park.

Is It (Was It) a Good Idea?

Here are a few of the creative plans tried out or proposed for the neighborhood 1964-1984:

- As "tourists sometimes wander around for hours unable to find Coit Tower," THD pushed the city to install more directional signs.
- A plan was advanced suggesting the city set aside the land above the Garfield School playground from which mothers could observe their children at play.
- When Modesto Lanzone owned Julius Castle he established a mini-bus operation that transported folks to the restaurant from the garage at 1641 Powell.
- In the spring of 1979, neighborhood volunteers planted 4,000 daffodils, covering the neighborhood from the Columbus median strip to the Filbert Steps.
- In 1977, on Grant between Union and Green, trees, flowers and benches were installed during a two-month test period. Autos could drive through, but drivers were not allowed to stop or park.

Focus on the Neighborhood

During these years, as now, many THD issues concerned the nitty-gritty of neighborhood life. A big issue during this time was the onslaught of savings and loans. Six of these enterprises had located near the intersection of Columbus, Green and Stockton. A moratorium on these types of businesses was established, though that did not stop these institutions from setting up shop a few yards on the other side of the moratorium zone.

There was much concern about holding on to neighborhood related businesses. In 1981, 4,739 people signed a petition to protest the eviction of

continued on next page

Dwelling '64-'84-*cont'd from page 15*

Rossi Drug Store, a neighborhood institution on Stockton Street that made a practice of delivering prescriptions. *The Semaphore* editorialized: "We need Elmer the shoe repair man, Iacopi the butcher and Franco at Malvena's."

But there was, then as now, the tradeoff between holding on to a neighborhood for the neighbors and life in the big city. In 1978, *The Semaphore* reported on THD concerns about the annual Photo Fair in Washington Square. The complaints have an eerily contemporary ring: "Concerns were voiced about the scale of the fair, the impact on the park of heavy equipment and excessive noise generated by the music." Establishing priorities in neighborhoods such as ours will always be a juggling act. In opposing a liquor license for the premises at 576 Vallejo, *The Semaphore* commented, "There being no shortage of licensed drinking establishments in the area, the denial of this application would brook no foreseeable hardship on the drinking public."

For a while around 1980 crime in the neighborhood was up sharply, with 62 neighborhood burglaries occurring in the matter of a few months. THD established a crime committee that advised Semaphore readers on the do's and don'ts of crime prevention: "Don't leave ladders around," "Don't rush outside when you hear a commotion. It may be a trap." In 1981, 46 residents teamed in groups of four to escort seniors home from bingo and to patrol areas hard hit by crime. District Supervisor John Molinari attended a neighborhood meeting at which he cited as one reason for the increase in crime the appointment by Gov. Jerry Brown of excessively lenient judges.

Social Events

But crime wave or not, Hill Dwellers during these years were anything but stay at homes. Meetings were held in now long-gone restaurants like the Montclair, Mooney's Irish Pub, the Rusty Scupper and, of course, the Old Spaghetti Factory. It was there, at THD's Fireman's Ball in 1968, that revelers showed up costumed as Lillie Coit, Dalmatians and fire plugs. THD sponsored the West Coast premier of the Telegraph Hill-located film "Petula." Picnics were held on Angel Island. The

Former THD President Anne Halsted seen honored for good works at early 80s "Anne Halsted Day"

continued on next page

Telegraph Hill Treasure Hunt II

In the last issue of the *Semaphore*, we published a photo of a Telegraph Hill enclave and provided the following clue to the location of the site pictured. The clue was developed by THD member Jayson Wechter for his Chinese New Year Treasure Hunt:

"Two tiny streets sit side by side, but share an unmapped connection, giving then a shape that almost the letter their names share."

The Answer: Medau and Krausgrill

Here's another challenge from Jayson:

Where can one find the plaque pictured at right? Identifying that location may be the easy part, but can you explain this clue that led treasure hunters to the plaque?

"Where Michael Moore shot people bowling, there's a dog who will lead you to Victor. Come then and read my palm, and not what is written there, for it is sometimes full of rhyme (but not reasons), joy and lament, visions and dreams and foggy nights of long ago."

Answer in our next issue.

Dwelling '64-'84-*cont'd*

Filbert Steps were decorated with jack-o-lanterns for Halloween.

Greg Jones acts the role of Mr. Cool at mid-'80s THD picnic.

During this 20-year period, all these activities, political and social, were evolving in the context of a good deal of introspection. How well do we represent the residents on the Hill? Why haven't even more people joined us? Are decisions dominated by a clique? But no one suggested the Hill Dwellers should go away. It was Curtis Baldwin, during his tenure as president, who presented, somewhat obliquely, the best argument for the organization's continued existence.

"Today in Rome, a tourist stands in a canyon while the glib guide announces that this is the summit of one of the hills of Ancient Rome. Rome would be a very different city today had there been a Palatine Hill Dwellers for the past 2000

The Secret History of a Rose Garden Statue

For several years, Audrey Tomaselli, THD's oral historian, has been conducting and recording interviews with residents of the Hill who have stories to tell. Her work inevitably led her to visit with Elios (Andy) and Virginia Anderlini, who have lived for 64 years in the Mission-style, bougainvillea-covered house they built at the northwest corner of Montgomery and Filbert. For the passerby, however, the show-stopper is not the Anderlini home, but the rose garden that Andy -— who was born in 1908 — has been cultivating since he retired at 55 from a successful law practice ("I was bored," he says). Close observers of the garden will notice a curious golden sculpture nestled among the roses. As the following excerpt from Audrey's interview documents, this sculpture has seen a lot more action than most statues.

Those interested in reading more of the Anderlinis' story as well as other tales compiled for THD's oral history collection should call Audrey at 391-1792.

AUDREY: I wonder if you would tell the story about the statue in your rose garden. Let's just start with, first of all, how you got it, what it is and so on. Just so we have the whole story on tape.

ANDY: The artist was Haig Patigian. He had done some wonderful sculptures in Washington, D.C. and the frieze at the Treasury Building. And he did that Abe Lincoln (statue) sitting on a chair there in front of the City Hall—on Polk Street.... So he was commissioned for the Treasure Island Fair of 1939 to do a sculpture for them. He conceived "Creation" which was four figures: a nubile young girl, and there's a very husky male, and a widow in a shroud, and himself in the front kneeling down with his hammer and chisel, the sculptor of the statue. And they say it's the four ages of life around this central rock or central mass. So then he died shortly after that…. His daughter, Carla Patigian was breaking up the studio and I happened to be there on the occasion since there were some other art objects I was interested in. But she was going to throw out this model of the statue.

Now, this was only a five-foot model, but the final "Creation" was 16 feet tall and at the exposition it was viewed with enthusiasm and got a lot of rave reviews… I told Carla that I had a garden, I'd see what I could do with the studio model. And she said, "Well, it's plaster of Paris; I don't know how perishable it is." I said, "Well, maybe I could give it some protective coating." So I had it brought

Virginia and Andy Anderlini in their garden (2000).

up here, the location where it is now in the rose garden, and I started putting some plastic and resin on it. The resin gets hard in a hurry and kind of crumbles up and roughens up. You had these sleek figures, beautiful models, well drawn and sculpted, but by the time I got through roughing it up, the texture looked aged and then I coated it. Every year I would renew this plastic spray paint on it and finally wound up with about 15 or 20 layers of this paint and it changed color from bronze to gold to green and then silver or aluminum color and then back to the bronze and the gold.

Now after the statue was there for maybe a year or so, one day the press came out. Somebody on the Hill or a passerby was offended by the nudity of that young nubile figure. And so she decided to raise the devil about it. [The Anderlinis' rose garden is actually on city-owned property.] So we went to the Street Department and they said, "Well, that's not our jurisdiction. That's part of Pioneer Park, Coit Tower and Telegraph Hill." So the Park Commission got in there and said it wasn't their jurisdiction, either.

No one took responsibility. So the newspapers then started a campaign of ridiculing this complaint [laughs]. Millions of people had seen it during the Treasure Island Exposition. So there's a bohemian colony here and liberal people who thought the complaint was so ridiculous. But whoever it was that made that complaint wouldn't give up and kept after it, kept after it and the newspaper dropped it after two or three days.

AUDREY: Do you know who it was who made the complaint?

ANDY: No, I never did know. Nobody would tell who it was. It was an anonymous complaint. This person kept harping about the thing. Finally it got to the mayor's desk. At that time the mayor was Elmer Robinson. Elmer Robinson was a lawyer; I knew him very well. We had worked together on the campaign for Governor Marion. And then we had cases against each other, so we were on a first-name basis. So one day I get a call from Elmer. He says, "Andy, will you get that goddamn statue out of there? I'm tired of hearing about it. My departments are fussing back and forth and this person's complaining." And I said, "What's offensive about it? Do you listen to every cat and dog that barks around this town?" Then I told him this story of the statue. He said, "Oh, I see. Well, there's also a complaint that it's unstable." I had just put it right on the ground. So he said, "If it falls off, well then the

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From the Desk of Supervisor Peskin

The last three years of my life have been a truly amazing experience, at times trying, but always rewarding. The transformation from neighborhood activist to district supervisor has been an educational and valuable journey.

When I first ran for office in 2000, I did so out of concern with the breakneck speed of development caused by the dot-com era and its impact on the unique character of San Francisco's natural and architectural environment. For most of the late '90s, San Francisco had seen buildings demolished, new housing erected and entire neighborhoods transformed at a blistering pace.

Nearly four years have passed since that time, and once again I am pursuing election to the office of supervisor. While I generally use this column to discuss issues of direct concern to the Telegraph Hill community, I would like to take this opportunity to recount some of the work we have done across this district and discuss some of the battles which lie ahead.

First, a few facts regarding San Francisco's Third Supervisorial District are in order. District 3, having been slightly reconfigured during the 2001 redistricting process, covers Chinatown, North Beach, Jackson Square, most of the Financial District, the Northeast Waterfront, Nob Hill, Lower Polk & Polk Gulch, Russian Hill, Telegraph Hill and Fisherman's Wharf. After Manhattan, we are the densest urban environment in the United States, averaging close to 50,000 residents per square mile.

What is most fun about being a district supervisor is having the opportunity to learn about these communities. While Telegraph Hill and North Beach will always be my home base, I am grateful for the experience I have had in learning about the incredibly divergent and varied concerns from neighborhood to neighborhood.

One concern felt across our district is the challenge facing renters, particularly the aging and disabled.

District 3's population density figures are due in large part to a former redevelopment area on the northeast waterfront, now the Golden Gateway Center. In response to concerns from residents—many of them elderly, long-term tenants—our office worked to craft compromise legislation capping the amount a landlord could charge tenants for operating and maintenance costs—a practice abused by some landlords.

We also wrote landmark legislation allowing the Golden Gateway Tenants Association to leaflet their own building to communicate about issues of shared importance.

Adjacent to the Embarcadero Center, this community has been in near constant flux since its creation in the 1960's. The demise of the Embarcadero Freeway provided a unique opportunity to recast that neighborhood, and I worked with local leaders to guarantee permanent open space on Ferry Park across from the Ferry Building.

Our office has been involved with other open-space issues across District 3, assisting with reconstruction projects at Helen Wills Playground and the North Beach pool as well as improvements and expansions on St. Mary's Square in Chinatown, Fay Garden on Russian Hill and Pioneer Park atop Telegraph Hill.

Another issue of importance to our district is increasing the stock of permanently affordable housing. Our office worked with the Chinatown Community Development Center on planning

continued on next page

SUPERVISOR PESKIN *cont'd from page 20*

and securing land for a substantial affordable housing project at Broadway and Battery Streets.

Also in Chinatown, our office is currently working with the Department of Public Works and the Public Utilities Commission on a comprehensive rat abatement program. While this may not be the sexiest area of policy we have focused on, the estimated 2 million rats living in and around that neighborhood highlight the need for a focused effort.

One of the challenges of becoming a supervisor has been the necessity of learning about and assisting with citywide projects not directly related to District 3. This includes everything from oversight of the city's $5 billion budget to monitoring a multi-billion dollar rebuild of the Hetch Hetchy water delivery system, one serving over 2 million Californians up and down the Peninsula.

A great example of citywide policy that will impact our district directly is legislation our office wrote streamlining the process for formation of community benefit districts (CBDs). Similar to the Union Square BID, CBDs are an excellent tool for individual neighborhoods to increase services beyond what the City provides and to pursue new capital improvement projects. Approved earlier this year, the new ordinance is already being used by community groups throughout the city. We are actively involved in assisting the Lower Polk Neighbors Association with their CBD formation efforts.

I also worked to preserve quality of life across San Francisco, by giving voters the right to decide on large bay-fill projects such as the ill-fated SFO runway expansion and by banning the erection of new billboards citywide. With the support of this neighborhood organization, we were able to save the Pagoda Theater, City Lights Bookstore and the Old Mint, where San Francisco will hopefully join other major cities in having a museum to her colorful history.

Much work remains in the days ahead to further our goals and ensure that our community charm is protected for future generations. The battle over adopting a sensible affordable housing policy regarding secondary units still looms. I have convened a working group of transit activists, planners and neighborhood activists to examine planning guidelines regarding above-ground parking lots, often an eyesore in the downtown corridor and throughout the City.

Whether the problem is as far-reaching as lobbyist ethics reform or as local as traffic signals in Chinatown, I still agree with Margaret Mead when she said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

As always, feel free to contact our office at 554-7450, or email at aaron.peskin@sfgov.org. See you around the hill.

Coit Traffic Jams *cont'd. fr. p. 11*

ing visitors can stay longer than 30 minutes, and concessions are likely to generate greater revenues because more people will make it to the top of the hill and be able to stay for longer periods of time.

The trial could be implemented within the next six to 12 months and will run for a few months, more or less, depending on what is learned and how soon.

As to public comment, while most in attendance wanted to solve the traffic-jam problem, few wanted to give up their full-time parking status.

Speakers urged the committee to keep in mind neighborhood uses and needs, some suggesting that neighbors should have priority over tourists. Ideas were put forward advocating special stickers for neighbors and urging that garage space should be found for neighbors who don't

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THD Board Motions

March Motion(s):

MOTION: The Telegraph Hill Dwellers will be a sponsor for Tel-Hi's fundraiser for the amount of $1,500.

April Motion(s):

The THD Board of Directors moves to endorse the following six criteria for the purpose of negotiation with the Mayor's Office in connection with the Mills proposed Project for Piers 27-31:

1. The project should comply with the San Francisco Waterfront Plan, the Port's Amended Request for Proposals, and the Port's April 18, 2001 Conditions for the development of Piers 27-31.
2. At least 51% of the interior space in the project should be dedicated to active recreational uses.
3. Any project approved for Piers 27-31 should satisfy the standard parking, traffic, and transit requirements that would be applied to any similar project proposed for the Northeast Waterfront.
4. Public access to the site should be enhanced, particularly to the water basin.
5. Any plan approved at the site should not cause stacking or queuing of cars along the Embarcadero and should not inhibit pedestrian and other users of the walk-way Herb-Caen Way. The project shall have no curb-cuts.-
6. The project must comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for historic preservation.

Where Bigger is Not Better

By Peter Overmire

Anyone needing further proof that—with the possible exception of Coit Tower—Telegraph Hill is just not cut out for large things could have collected some evidence on June 15.

At 9:30 a.m., the driver of a truck with a 57-foot trailer got lost, came up Union Street to Montgomery, tried to turn around and got his rear wheel stuck behind the fire hydrant in front of Speedy's Market. He couldn't go forward or back and completely blocked the intersection for almost 2-1/2 hours. After almost two hours the biggest tow truck I have ever seen arrived from Sacramento or somewhere and pushed the cab and trailer back uphill three feet so that the fire department could remove the hydrant.

Lots of folks were late for appointments.

A Channel 4 News photographer arrived just one minute after the truck was freed and moved down Union Street. So this is a *Semaphore* exclu-

Is Twiggy Ready to be Landmarked?

By Carol Peterson

It is a curious fact that no one has ever spotted at the same cocktail party Twiggy, the iconic English fashion model of the 1960s, and the slender creature known as Twiggy that graces the balcony at 101 Telegraph Hill Boulevard. One need not be Inspector Clouseau to draw the correct inference: Twiggy is Twiggy. Armed with this insight I set out to interview Twiggy:

How did you happen to leave England and end up in San Francisco?

Oh, you know how it is. We jet-setted all over the world. It was all a bit of a blur, but, I must say, I never expected to end up with my arms off in the basement of a fixture store on Mission Street.

Do you mind being photographed so often this late in your career?

Of course not. It's strange how my picture was plastered on magazine covers in the '60s and now I seem to be the reigning queen of Photoshop e-mail attachments.

I understand you never did runway.

Right. I had them all fooled. They never found out I couldn't walk.

What do you like most about yourself?

My ability to maintain the same pose for long periods of time.

What do you dislike about yourself?

My aging skin. With the sun, the night air, it's tough.

When are you happiest?

When I get my clothes changed.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Having ABC do a special interest story on me last year. Can you imagine? They called me a San Francisco landmark just like the Golden Gate Bridge.

Do you have any plans for the future?

I am going to try to move my right arm out of that awkward position.

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Rose Garden Statue *continued from page 17*

city's responsible for it because it's the city's property." I said, "It'd crack in a million pieces because it's right on top there and if it goes down it'll fall into the gutters."

But he said, "Well, give it a permanent foundation." I said, "I can't cement plaster of Paris [laughs]. The plaster of Paris won't take it, but I will get a good solid base on it. The statue will hold itself up because of the armature wiring inside. He says, "Well, will you do that at least?" I said, "All right. I'll affix it firmly on a base." So that was that, and it stood there. If you look at it closely you can see it's a very good cement block that it's on. It's sitting on top of that rock and it's very firm. Apart from that, there's another story completely unrelated to what we're talking about. If you want to shut the recorder off you can do that, but it's up to you.

AUDREY: No, let's have it.

ANDY: It happened about, oh, maybe 10 years later. I go in the garden and the piece is missing. And I'm thinking, who in the hell would steal that? It'd take three or four men to carry it. It's over 200 pounds. One person can't do it. It was a Monday morning I noticed it and said, "What the devil?" So the newspapers put: Anderlini's statue [laughs] is missing. Who stole it?

So the newspaper had a file on the thing because of the earlier issue. I complained around, "Who stole the statue?" Now the hunt was on: Who stole the statue? Again the picture of the thing. It caused so much controversy! So a day or two later I get a call from the campus police over at Berkeley, UC. He said, "I think we have your statue here, at the bottom of the Campanile." I said, "How'd it get there?" "We found out that it was the Big Game." I said, "What's the condition?" He said, "It's intact." I said, "It better be." I think this was a Monday or Tuesday. The previous Saturday was the big Stanford-Cal football game. And the students at Cal had a big shindig on Sunday at The Shadows restaurant. Right here across the path on the Filbert steps.

Well, they're celebrating the great victory over Stanford, big husky guys [laughs]. And drinking. They brought it over to Berkeley. They didn't know what the hell to do with it. It was like a trophy. They brought it and put it at the base of the Campanile. So I told the guy, I said, "Well, look, there's only one way it got there." And so the next day they brought it back. To the newspaper it was a lark. But the newspaper didn't cover the statue recovery story.

Years later, many years later, somebody pushed the thing over and it fell into pieces. We don't know … there were pieces strewn down into the gutter, about three large pieces and some crumbles. I was in Hawaii at the time. And my son called and said that the statue had tumbled down to the foot of the hill and was all broken up. And he said, "Shall we cart it away? What are we gonna do?" I said, "Leave it the way it is. I'll be back in a few days and I'll take care

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Rose Garden Statue *continued from page 21*

of it." As a matter of fact, piece by piece I reconstructed the statue myself. Remember, Gin? How many? Three big pieces and a lot of chards.

VIRGINIA:-It just crashed down the hill overnight. I went out there and I saw pieces at the foot of the hill in the gutter there. Terry said, "Well I think maybe we should just have it hauled away. It's just sitting down there." And I said, "No, I wouldn't dare, let's call your father. Let's call him and ask him what to do." And Andy says, "Don't move it. Just leave everything where it is." [Laughs]. He wasn't about to give up that statue!

AUDREY: Amazing. It's a talisman.

ANDY: Well, there's another story about the garden. Last winter we had heavy rains and a lot of flooding. We were worried about the street.

We thought for a while that it was just heavy rains and the seepage. But then when it stopped raining there were still water problems. The people over there on the Greenwich side of the hill had a lot of water damage in the basements and lower frontage. And up here, a basement was flooded. It turns out that it wasn't just the heavy rains. The old water pipe for irrigation had broken. So when that was discovered the city just shut off the water! Spring came and we were worried about the roses.

The Street Department didn't want to deal with it. They disowned it. They said it would cost $30,000 to replace the line. Well when they don't want to do something, they can hike their own figures. We couldn't believe it was $30,000 worth of water pipes that had to be replaced. Finally the gang at THD got together got after them and put enough pressure on.

VIRGINIA: They came up and did it in a day and a half. So you could tell it wasn't that big a deal. It was the Department of Public Works. They were very nice when they came up here.

ANDY: Oh yeah, they had orders from higher up.

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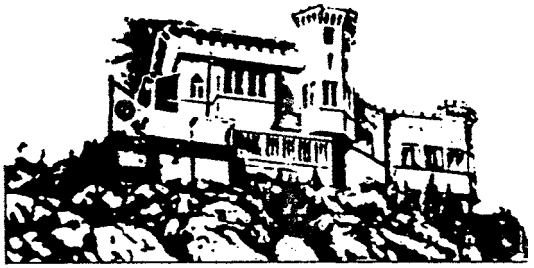
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THD To Again Honor Neighborhood Good Works-

The THD board of directors has decided it's time we the organization got "NICE" again. The term refers here not to the Dwellers' sunny disposition, which can come or go depending on the issue, but rather to the reinstatement, in principle if not name, of the Neighborhood Improvement, Conservation and Enhancement Committee, or NICE.-

The original committee, created in 1996 as the brainchild of Dawne Bernhardt, sought to call attention to the too often overlooked fact that the reason our neighborhood works is because many extraordinary individuals have taken the lead in building and retaining its character, enhancing our urban environment and improving the quality of our lives.-

While the board is enthusiastic about re-establishing the awards and delighted that Dawne will again head the committee, much remains to be decided including the likely choice of a new name for the committee, tentatively called the Neighborhood Appreciation Committee.-

In the past awards were given for accomplishments ranging from extraordinary to small but life enhancing.-

So for instance, the 1995 *People Who Make a Difference Award* went to David Davies and Jack Weeden who, staring in the 1970s, worked continuously for 25 years on the daunting task of transforming the seemingly unsalvageable rock slopes of the Sansome Hill into a green belt of varied plants and trees by rappelling the 110 foot drop to clear, plant and nurture.-

The Honoring the Heritage of the Hill Award went to shop and business owners who have conserved the old world character of the hill; Ottilia Malattia of Columbus Cutlery and George and Josephine Soracco of Liguria Bakery were, for instance, among those honored.-

A Green Thumb Honor Roll was presented to residents whose gardening efforts around their home could be appreciated by passers by. These awardees included the keepers of the Grace Marchant and Vallejo Street Gardens. Other smaller but meaningful and generous acts were given due attention. For example, the North Beach librarian who set up and maintained the Beat Poet Collection received recognition. -

Committee members are in the process of deciding on the nature and number of awards. This task is not made easier by the understanding that there is likely no neighborhood in San Francisco where more folks are deserving of special recognition. -

If you have ideas or comments for the Awards Committee you can contact Dawne Bernhardt at DAWNESF@aol.com or 982-3314.

Coit Traffic Jams *cont'd. fr. p.21*

have it. One speaker wondered if valet parking for tourists might work. There seemed to be general agreement on two points: The current situation, with its vehicle congestion, creates a dangerous situation for fire trucks needing access to the area. And the grounds around Coit Tower are really too beautiful to be used as a parking lot.

Although no one seemed willing to give up any parking, the meeting was courteous and constructive. At the end, the committee presenters thanked those who came and observed that there surely is a way to clear up the traffic jams and still accommodate the legitimate needs of the nearby neighbors.

The committee said that there would be at least one more meeting before trials begin.

Have You Cleaned Out Your Closets Lately?

by June Fraps

Stan Hayes cleaning house recently came upon a real treasure: a very large Telegraph Hill Dwellers scrapbook covering the years 1954 to 1962. The cover? A memorable photograph of Washington Square in 1958.

Stan's late wife and long-time THD activist, Rhoda Parks, was diligent about clipping stories about the Hill, issues that led a few residents to form the Telegraph Hill Dwellers. The scrapbook includes invitations to the organization's first few "birthday" parties, urging residents to join.

The clips range from complete Herb Caen columns in the Chronicle where the Hill Dwellers were mentioned to short items in the Little City News about THD's election of officers (referring to the women as "Miss" or "Mrs"!). There are extensive stories about plans to build freeways around–and through–the Hill, and stories calling for the establishment of a redevelopment district on the Hill.

These stories were published in the *Examiner* and the *Chronicle*, as well as the now-defunct *News-Call-Bulletin* and *Little City News*. The clips are as revealing about the history of newspapers in San Francisco as they are about the issues that concerned the Hill Dwellers in those years.

Readers interested in spending some time with the scrapbook can contact THD archivist Rozell Overmire at 989-3945, or by e-mail at rozell@ureach.com.

From the Scrapbook: Grant Street Fair, 1960's

Parks & Trees Report

by Julienne M. Christensen

Washington Square

The Columbus Day Celebration Committee, the group sponsoring the Columbus Day parade each October, is proposing changes and additions to this year's celebration.

These include erecting 8,400 square feet of tents in Washington Square and moving the weekend's main events there. These events traditionally include a Friday night dinner/dance and presentation of the festival queen and her court, and a wine and food tasting and music on Saturday and Sunday. These are paid-admission events ($150 per couple for dancing and $35-45 for the tastings).

Some neighborhood residents have concerns. The Friends of Washington Square has a long-standing policy that discourages restricted use of the park and seeks to limit alcohol sales and amplified sound. The Columbus Day weekend brings an exceptionally large number of people to the neighborhood, and many of them join neighbors in seeking respite in the park.

Event promoters and neighbors are meeting in an attempt to find common ground and as of this writing, a meeting had been set up to discuss compromises.

The test of an area of new, porous paving to replace the square's old, cracked, toxic asphalt is in the organizational stages. The small area in the southeast corner of the park should be repaved within the next 6 months.

North Beach Pool

The pool and clubhouse project is moving ahead with great speed. We have not heard of any complaints from neighbors related to the extended construction hours. Everyone just seems relieved to have the project back on track. The goal is to have the new facilities completed and open to the public by early next year.

Joe DiMaggio Playground

Liz Diaz and Jennifer Moerer of the Friends of Joe DiMaggio Playground hosted a meeting at the Tel Hi Center on May 17 to discuss long term plans for the park and how to best develop them. About two dozen people attended, most volunteering to participate in one or more of the project committees (planning, traffic, finance, fund raising, communications, school outreach, library, community garden & trees, tot lot/clubhouse, arts, sculpture & poets). Those who are interested in getting involved with the Friends group can check the group's website at DiMaggioPlayground.org.

A sculptor from Texas with a 1-1/4 life-size bronze sculpture of Joe DiMaggio has offered to sell the piece at a concessionary price to the Friends of Joe DiMaggio Playground for placement in the (we hope expanded, greener) park. The animated work shows Joltin' Joe at bat, and happens to be taken from the same famous photo that inspired the DiMaggio statue in Joe Butler's watercolor of an expanded and green DiMaggio Playground. Folks can view the piece at BronzeArtbyHogan.com. Interested donors extremely welcome.

Triangle

The city's eminent domain proceedings and the developers' countersuit are winding their way through the legal channels. We have little indication at this time what a likely schedule for resolution will be.

In the meantime, the campaign for hearts and minds continues on both sides of the issue. The developers appear predictably at neighborhood events, Supervisor Peskin's Town Hall meetings, and city department and commission hearings.

continued on page 31

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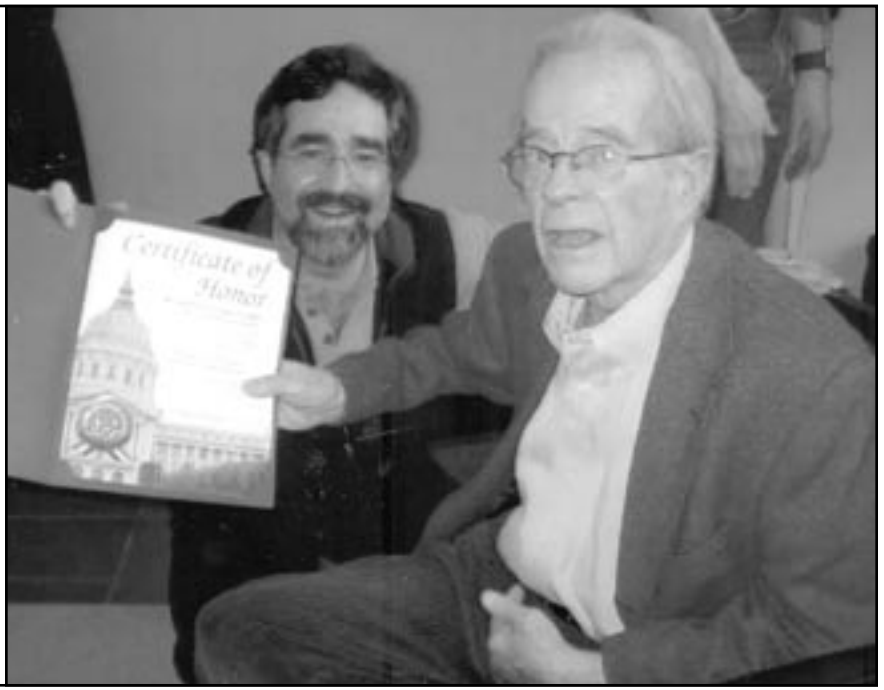
A Certificate of Honor reading "Gentleman, Gardener, Democrat," was presented to Dick Marshall by Supervisor Aaron Peskin in April at a farewell reception hosted by Schein & Schein at 1528 Grant Avenue. A longtime THD member and former chair of the Planning & Zoning Committee, Dick built the cottage at 122 Alta Street where he cultivated a prize-winning rose garden. He was active in local issues until he relocated near his son in Los Angeles.

PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROBINSON



PARKS AND TREES *continued from page 25*

Concerned that a good deal of misinformation is floating around, acquisition advocates have been stepping up attempts to balance the negative diatribes.

Pioneer Park

One of the big issues when neighbors became involved in the renovation of the park around Coit Tower in the mid-1990's was the state of the park's aging cypress trees — particularly those ringing the north side of the parking lot. The cypress trees in Pioneer Park are nearing the end of their natural lives.

In addition, the northern stand of trees has been systematically pruned over decades to preserve the spectacular views from the park across the bay. But as the trees continue to grow up, and the pruning continues to chop them lower, we are being left with very little viable tree. The pruning is becoming increasingly expensive and dangerous. In addition, the density and natural toxicity of the cypress prevent the growth of under-canopy shrubs and ground cover, reducing viable habitat and increasing erosion problems.

As part of the 25-year planning for the park, the members of the Pioneer Park Project determined that the best long-range solution was to very gradually remove the cypress and replace them with more suitable native trees and under-canopy plants. Interested persons can contact Joe Butler at fjosephbutler@hotmail.com.

Broadway

It has been a few years since the Chinatown Community Development Center partnered with the Department of Public Works to develop a renovation plan for the east end of Broadway. The project has passed through numerous stages: community meetings, planning, departmental hearings, budgeting, several redesigns.

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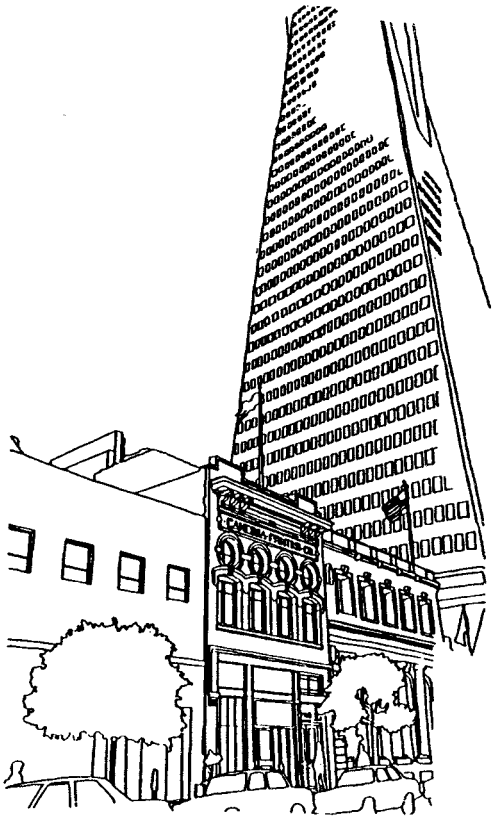

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Plaque Honors "Rosie the Riveter"

By Patricia Cady

On April 15, a bronze plaque was dedicated to Rosalie Taggi in the plaza at the top of the Macchiarini Steps at Vallejo and Kearny streets. Supervisor Aaron Peskin presided at a party celebrating our local "Rosie," who overlooked the ceremony from her home where she has lived for 75 years.

One of many women who worked in war industries during World War II, Rosalie was a welder at the Kaiser Richmond Shipyards. In an interview, she recalled her pre-dawn walks to the Ferry Building to board a boat to the yards. Wearing her welder's mask and a 40-pound horsehide uniform, she worked on griddle-hot steel to help turn out Liberty ships at the unprecented rate of one per week. After the war, she organized volunteers at Saint Francis of Assisi Church, running a popular thrift shop and hosting bountiful free dinners for needy locals.

THE PLAQUE: BY GERRY HURTADO.
Plaque depicts Rosalie in welder's outfit.

Friends and neighbors formed a committee to fund the plaque honoring her lifetime of work and service. Designed by Rod Freebairn-Smith, the plaque's fabrication was supervised by Arthur Chang. Thanks to Telegraph Hill Dwellers, the site of "Rosie the Riveter Plaza" was transformed from an abandoned, unsightly lot to the pleasant open space it is today. THD convinced the city to create this landscaped view spot which is carefully maintained by Gerry Hurtado and other neighbors who welcome volunteer helpers.

GROUP PHOTO: BY MARV KASOFF.
Committee with Rosalie, seated: Rod Freebairn-Smith, Gerry Hurtado, Beatrice Taggi, John Barnes, Patricia Cady, Arthur Chang. (Not pictured, Marv Kasoff, Jeanne Milligan.)

PARKS AND TREES *continued from page 31*

The project in its present version has been scaled back to include only a two-block stretch of Broadway, between Montgomery and Battery. Current plans call for bulb-outs at the intersections, benches, new lighting, and additional street trees.

Because of the reconfiguration of the sidewalks, DPW has asked for permission to remove four trees planted as part of THD's mid-1990's 400 Trees project (two Brisbane Box in front of On-Lok and two Raywood Ash across the street nearer Sansome). We do not want to thwart CCDC and DPW's efforts to improve the pedestrian experience on Broadway, but we did have concerns about the likelihood of the survival of the replacement trees once the now 10-year-old, THD-sponsored trees are removed. Trees we planted in 1995 in that area were particularly tested by wind and vandalism, and it was very difficult to secure promises about their care from property owners.

DPW responded that the new trees will be much larger when planted than the THD trees (36-inch box versus 5 gallon), and that the installer will be responsible for watering and maintenance for one year after planting. Owners will still be responsible for watering and maintenance after that period, and for pruning, and will be liable for any damage related to the trees.

At a DPW hearing in May, approval for removal of the four trees was withheld until project coordinators were able to secure firm commitments from the affected property owners. DPW hopes to complete the last few steps and begin the sidewalk work later this year.

Ferry Park

DPW has been working with neighborhood planner Bonnie Fisher and her staff to look at short- and long-range planning for the improvement of Ferry Park, two parcels between the Alcoa building and the Embarcadero, and between Golden Gateway and the Embarcadero Center. These became available after the removal of the Embarcadero Freeway and were transferred to RecPark by Supervisor Peskin.

Project members are attempting to determine a program for the parcels. What amenities should exist? What types of activities should be accommodated and encouraged?

Preliminary plans call for removing the abandoned pump house on the site, creating a passive park along the lines of Sidney Walton Square, and adding a children's play area. Carolyn Blair of the Tree Council, and some residents of the Golden Gateway complex, have been very vocal in their opposition to the direction the general plans have been taking. DPW decided in late May to hold further public hearings before finalizing their program.

Interested persons can contact Rick Thall, project manager for DPW.

St. Mary's Square

Great news for the district: St. Mary's is finally nearing completion. A re-opening celebration is in the works. RecPark hopes to have the park back on line by late June, early July.

sem.a.phore

DEFINITION: To convey information using visual signals, such as flags, lights and mechanical arms.

In the 19th century, Telegraph Hill was a lookout spot. A man stood at the top and watched for ships arriving through the Golden Gate. He used semaphore signals to spell out ships' names to the people below who were waiting for goods and mail. Neighbors who formed Telegraph Hill Dwellers in 1954 named their newsletter to salute this early use of the Hill.

THD Welcomes New Members

February to April 2004

Joseph Alioto, Ken Evans & Jim Avedikian, Neil Balthaser, Mark Sweeney & Gina Baratta, Barbara Blake, Howard Ashluck & Patsy Chan, Liz & Ben Diaz, Monte Ruth Farris, Dwight & Marjie Fitterer, Wayne & Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Haralyn Kuckes, Ryan Lafrenz, Fernando Martinez, Francis W. & Lois Cooper Mayer, Wesley & Kate Mitchell, Lynda & Robert Mittelstadt, Jennifer Moerer, Mailyn Nichols, Kara & John Parsons, Dan Reilly, Elinor Shin, Douglas M. Stoddard, Alida Truant & Stan Teng, Morton Thoshinsky M.D., and Blaire Whiting.

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THD COMMITTEES NEED YOU

You can make a difference! Join one of THD's committees, meet and work with your fellow Hill Dwellers to improve life on the Hill.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Parking and Transportation. Chair, Bill Seelinger, 392-8450 billseel@aol.com. Promotes efforts to ease congestion, optimize white zones, upgrade public transportation. Works with Department of Parking and Traffic.

Planning and Zoning. Chair, Jeannie Milligan, Jeanne_M@pacbell.net. Monitors and reviews proposed development projects for consistency with applicable City ordinances. Works with Planning Department staff and represents THD before the Landmarks Board, Planning Commission, Zoning Administrator and other regulating bodies to protect historic resources and maintain neighborhood character. Assists members to learn more about and participate in planning and zoning issues.

Semaphore. Editor, Art Peterson 956-7817; artpeterson@writingproject.org. The editor and staff produce a quarterly magazine for THD members.

Program. Chair, Maxine Schulman, 981-4042; BigMaxSF@aol.com. Arranges social events, including quarterly membership meetings and get-acquainted social functions.

Budget. Greg Chiampou, 834-9338; gchiampou@att.net. As prescribed in bylaws for Treasurer.

Membership. Chair, Tom Noyes, 981-8520; tom@noyesfamily.com. As prescribed in Bylaws for Financial Secretary.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS

Parks and Trees. Chair, Julienne Christensen, 989-0882, julie@surfaces.com. Information and projects concerning local parks, green spaces and street trees.

Oral History Project Chair, Audrey Tomaselli, 391-1792; tmsli@earthlink.net. Taped interviews provide historical documentation of living and working in the neighborhood.

THD Web Site. Webmaster, Tom Noyes, 981-8520; webmaster@thd.org. Shared information about meetings, local concerns and events.

LIAISONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods. Representative, Gerry Crowley, 781-4201; gerrycrowley@aol.com. City-wide organization interacts with other neighborhoods to discuss common problems.

North Beach Neighborhood Coalition. Representative, Gerry Crowley. 781-4201; gerrycrowley@aol.com. Tel-Hi-sponsored group of residents, merchants and government agencies working together to address neighborhood issues.

N.E.R.T. June Fraps, 392-1187; junefraps@juno.com. Energizes members to take emergency disaster response training program sponsored by the City.

WEB SITE = www.thd.org

Whether you want to catch up on THD's Oral Histories, see what the THD is up to, or submit old photos of the Hill, www.thd.org is the place to go. Use the Web site to discover or email information about upcoming meetings in the neighborhood and at City agencies, and ideas and concerns you want the rest of us to know about between *Semaphore*s.

We know what it's like trying to find the perfect place on Telegraph Hill. We just did it ourselves.

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THD CALENDAR

Second Saturday stair and garden work parties at Pioneer Park: July 10, August 14, September 11. For more information call 552-7774.

August

7: Giants game.

18: Movie Night at Washington Square

26: Picnic and 50th Anniversary celebration at Coit Tower.

September

10: Symphony Night.

Dates and locations subject to change. For information about special THD events held in conjunction with the organization's 50th anniversary, see page 8

Schedules of Committee Meetings

Planning & Zoning: First Thursdays. Call for time and location. 986-7070.

For more information, log on to http://www.thd.org

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